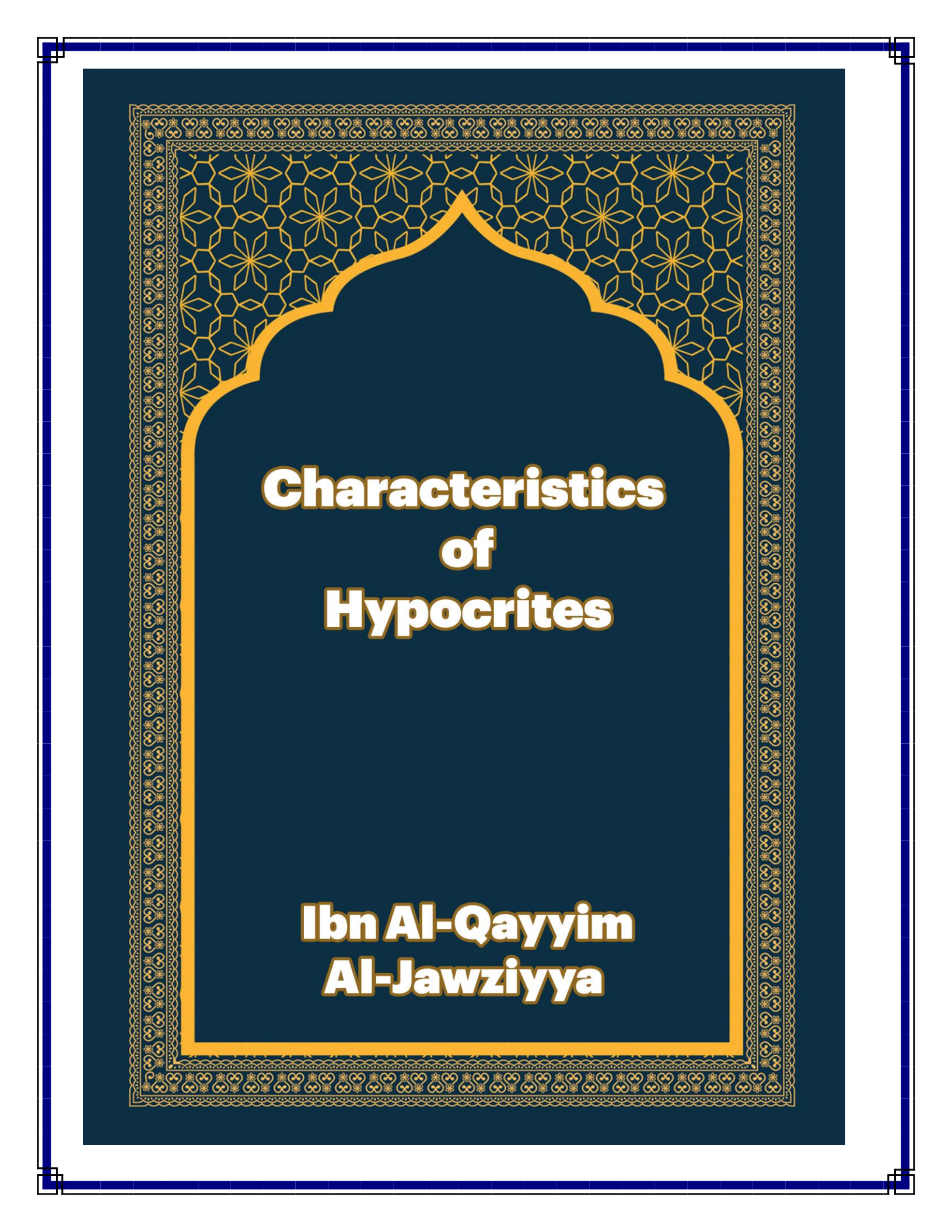




Characteristics of Hypocrites

**Ibn Al-Qayyim
Al-Jawziyya**

Characteristics of hypocrites

صفات المنافقين

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Translator introduction

All praise is due to Allah; we praise Him and seek His forgiveness.

We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of our souls and the wickedness of our deeds.

He, whom Allah guides, none can misguide him, and he whom He misguides, none can guide him.

I bear witness there is no deity worthy of worship in truth except Allah, alone, without partner.

His is the dominion and His is the praise.

He gives life and causes death, and He is over all things competent. Now then:

I have translated the book before you, entitled (**Characteristics of hypocrites**) by (**Ibn Al-Qayyim Al-Jawziyya**) because of the many benefits and advantages it contains for the Muslim.

This translation is my own effort. If I do well, it is from Allah and His guidance to me, and if I make a mistake, it is from myself and from Satan.

I ask Allah to make this work of mine purely for Him and to spread the word of truth throughout the entire earth and to teach Muslims who do not speak Arabic their religion that Allah has chosen for them.

The one in need of his Lord's forgiveness: **Omar bin Ahmed Tohamy**.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Hypocrisy is a fatal disease

All praise is due to Allah. We praise Him, seek His aid, and ask for His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of our own souls and the wickedness of our deeds. He whom Allah guides, none can misguide, and he whom He misguides, none can guide. I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾

“O you who have believed, fear Allah as He should be feared and do not die except as Muslims [in submission to Him].” [Al Imran: 102]

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا﴾

“O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed Allah is ever, over you, an Observer.” [An-Nisa: 1]

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا﴾

“O you who have believed, fear Allah and speak words of appropriate justice. He will [then] amend for you your deeds and forgive you your sins. And whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger has certainly attained a great attainment.” [Al-Ahzab: 70-71]

Now then:

Hypocrisy is the incurable, hidden disease that a person is filled with, without realizing it. It is something hidden from people. It is often hidden from those who are afflicted with it, so they claim to be reformers, while they are actually corrupters.

It is of two types: major and minor.

The major type necessitates eternal damnation to Hellfire in its lowest depths. It involves someone showing Muslims their belief in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day, while inwardly, they are stripped of all of that and deny it.

They do not believe that Allah spoke words that He revealed to a human being, making him a messenger to mankind, guiding them by His permission, warning them of His wrath, and frightening them with His punishment.

Allah, the Exalted, has exposed the veils of the hypocrites, revealed their secrets in the Qur'an, and made their affairs clear to His servants so that they may be wary of them and their people. He mentioned the three groups of the world at the beginning of Surah Al-Baqarah: the believers, the disbelievers, and the hypocrites.

He mentioned four verses about the believers, two verses about the disbelievers, and thirteen verses about the hypocrites.

Because of their large numbers, the widespread affliction they cause, and the severity of their temptation against Islam and its people, the affliction of Islam with them is very severe, because they are attributed to it, to its support and loyalty, while they are its enemies in reality, expressing their enmity against it in every form, which the ignorant think is knowledge and reform, but it is the height of ignorance and corruption.

By Allah, how many strongholds of Islam have they demolished?! How many fortresses have they uprooted and ruined? How many flags have they obliterated? How many of his banners were raised and they lowered them? How many have they struck with pickaxes of doubt at the roots of its plants to uproot them? How many have they blinded the springs of its resources with their opinions to bury and cut them down?

Islam and its followers continue to face their trials and tribulations, and their skepticism continues to infiltrate it, one after another. They claim to be reformers by doing so:

﴿أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِن لَّا يَشْعُرُونَ﴾

“Unquestionably, it is they who are the corrupters, but they perceive [it] not.” [Al-Baqarah: 12]

﴿يُرِيدُونَ لِيُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ مُتِمُّ نُورِهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

“They want to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths, but Allah will perfect His light, although the disbelievers dislike it.” [Al-Saff: 8]

They have agreed to abandon the revelation. They are united in abandoning guidance from it.

﴿فَتَقَطَّعُوا أَمْرَهُم بَيْنَهُمْ زُبُرًا كُلُّ حِزْبٍ بِمَا لَدَيْهِمْ فَرِحُونَ﴾

“But the people divided their religion among them into sects - each faction, in what it has, rejoicing.” [Al-Mu'minun: 53]

﴿يُوجِي بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَى بَعْضٍ زُخْرَفَ الْقَوْلِ غُرُورًا﴾

"Inspiring to one another decorative speech in delusion." [Al-An'am: 112]

And for this reason:

﴿اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا﴾

"Indeed my people have taken this Qur'an as [a thing] abandoned." [Al-Furqan: 30]

The signs of faith have been erased from their hearts, so they no longer recognize them. And His institutes have been destroyed and they do not renovate them. Its luminous stars have set from their hearts, so they cannot revive them. Its sun has been eclipsed by the gathering darkness of their opinions and thoughts, so they cannot see it. They did not accept the guidance of Allah with which He sent His Messenger. They did not raise their heads with it, and they saw no harm in turning away from it to their own opinions and thoughts. They stripped the texts of revelation of their authority of truth. They isolated them from the guardianship of certainty, and launched raids of false interpretations against them, so that they continued to attack them, ambush after ambush. It descended upon them as a guest among a vile people, but they met it with less than the acceptance and honor it should have. They received it from afar, but by pushing it away from their hearts and their miracles. They said, "You have no way of passing through with us." And if it was necessary, then it would be by way of passing. They prepared various tools and laws to repel it. When it arrived in their courtyard, they said, "What do we have to do with verbal literalisms that provide us with no certainty?" Their common folk said, "What we found our later successors doing is sufficient for us, for they are more knowledgeable about it than our predecessors, and more upright in the methods of arguments and proofs." Those people were overcome by naivety and a pure heart. They did not devote themselves to laying the foundations of reasoning, but instead devoted their efforts to doing what is commanded and avoiding what is forbidden. The method of those who came after them is more knowledgeable and wiser, while the method of the early predecessors is more ignorant, but safer. They placed the texts of the Sunnah and the Qur'an in the same position as the caliph of our time, whose name is exalted on the road and in the sermons from the pulpits. The ruling that is binding belongs to anyone other than him, and his ruling is neither accepted nor listened to. They have dressed up as believers over the hearts of people of deviation and loss, of malice and disbelief. Their outward appearances are those of the supporters, while their inner selves have sided with the disbelievers. Their tongues are the tongues of the peaceful, and their hearts are the hearts of the warriors. They say:

﴿آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَا هُمْ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ﴾

"We believe in Allah and the Last Day," but they are not believers." [Al-Baqarah: 8]

Their capital is deception and cunning, and their merchandise is lying and treachery. They have the rational life: both parties are satisfied with them, and they are safe among themselves.

﴿يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَمَا يَخْدَعُونَ إِلَّا أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ﴾

“They [think to] deceive Allah and those who believe, but they deceive not except themselves and perceive [it] not.” [Al-Baqarah: 9]

The diseases of doubts and desires have worn away their hearts. So it destroyed it, and evil intentions overcame their will and intentions, corrupting them. Their corruption has reached the point of destruction, and knowledgeable doctors are unable to cure it.

﴿فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَّرَضٌ فَزَادَهُمُ اللَّهُ مَرَضًا وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْذِبُونَ﴾

“In their hearts is disease, so Allah has increased their disease; and for them is a painful punishment because they [habitually] used to lie.” [Al-Baqarah: 10]

Whoever's faith is encased in the claws of their doubts; it will tear him apart completely. Whoever's heart is clung to by the sparks of their temptation; it will throw him into the torment of the burning fire. Whoever's doubts of their deception enter his ears, it will prevent his heart from believing. Their corruption on earth is widespread, and most people are unaware of it.

﴿وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُصْلِحُونَ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِنْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ﴾

“And when it is said to them, "Do not cause corruption on the earth," they say, "We are but reformers." Unquestionably, it is they who are the corrupters, but they perceive [it] not.” [Al-Baqarah: 11-12]

Those who adhere to the Qur'an and Sunnah, in their view, are merely simplistic and have little luck. Those who adhere to the Qur'an and Sunnah are, to them, like a donkey carrying books. Their understanding is limited to carrying transmitted information. The merchandise of a merchant of revelation is unsold, and they do not accept it. And the followers are fools in their eyes. They are suspicious of them in their private gatherings and gatherings.

﴿وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ آمِنُوا كَمَا آمَنَ النَّاسُ قَالُوا أَنُؤْمِنُ كَمَا آمَنَ السُّفَهَاءُ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ السُّفَهَاءُ وَلَكِنْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

“And when it is said to them, "Believe as the people have believed," they say, "Should we believe as the foolish have believed?" Unquestionably, it is they who are the foolish, but they know [it] not.” [Al-Baqarah: 13]

Each of them has two faces: one with which he meets the believers, and one with which he turns to his atheist brothers.

Each of them has two tongues: one that Muslims accept at face value, and the other that translates its hidden secret.

﴿وَإِذَا لَقُوا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قَالُوا آمَنَّا وَإِذَا خَلَوْا إِلَىٰ شَيَاطِينِهِمْ قَالُوا إِنَّا مَعَكُمْ إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُسْتَهْزِئُونَ﴾

“And when they meet those who believe, they say, "We believe"; but when they are alone with their evil ones, they say, "Indeed, we are with you; we were only mockers."” [Al-Baqarah: 14]

They turned away from the Qur'an and the Sunnah in mockery and contempt of their people. They refused to submit to the judgment of the two revelations, rejoicing in the knowledge they possess, the use of which only increases evil and arrogance. You will always see them mocking those who cling to the explicit revelation.

﴿اللَّهُ يَسْتَهْزِئُ بِهِمْ وَيَمُدُّهُمْ فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ﴾

“[But] Allah mocks them and prolongs them in their transgression [while] they wander blindly.” [Al-Baqarah: 15]

They set out in search of a lost trade in the seas of darkness. They boarded ships of doubt, and suspicions carried them in waves of imagination. The violent winds tossed their ships, throwing them among the ships of the doomed.

﴿أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ اشْتَرُوا الضَّلَالََةَ بِالْهُدَىٰ فَمَا رَبِحَتْ تِجَارَتُهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ﴾

“Those are the ones who have purchased error [in exchange] for guidance, so their transaction has brought no profit, nor were they guided.” [Al-Baqarah: 16]

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The fire of faith was lit for them, and in its light they saw the places of guidance and misguidance. Then that light was extinguished, and what remained was a blazing fire, blazing with flames. They are tormented by that fire, and in that darkness they wander blindly.

﴿مَثَلُهُمْ كَمَثَلِ الَّذِي اسْتَوْقَدَ نَارًا فَلَمَّا أَضَاءَتْ مَا حَوْلَهُ ذَهَبَ اللَّهُ بِنُورِهِمْ وَتَرَكَهُمْ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ﴾

“Their example is that of one who kindled a fire, but when it illuminated what was around him, Allah took away their light and left them in darkness [so] they could not see.” [Al-Baqarah: 17]

The hearing of their hearts has been weighed down by burden, so they do not hear the call of faith. The eyes of their insight are covered by a veil of blindness, so they do not perceive the realities of the Qur'an. Their tongues are mute from the truth, so they do not speak about it.

﴿صُمُّ بُكْمٌ عُمَىٰ فَهُمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ﴾

“Deaf, dumb and blind - so they will not return [to the right path].” [Al-Baqarah: 18]

The toll of revelation fell upon them, and in it is the life of hearts and souls. They heard nothing from it except the thunder of threats, warnings, and duties imposed upon them in the evening and morning. So they put their fingers in their ears, covered themselves with their garments, and struggled to flee, pursue their traces, and shout. Then it was called out to them in front of all witnesses, and their condition was revealed to those who seek insight, and two examples were given to them according to the condition of the two groups among them: the debaters and the imitators. It was said:

﴿أَوْ كَصَيِّبٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فِيهِ ظُلُمَاتٌ وَرَعْدٌ وَبَرْقٌ يَجْعَلُونَ أَصَابِعَهُمْ فِي آذَانِهِم مِّنَ الصَّوَاعِقِ حَذَرَ الْمَوْتِ ۚ وَاللَّهُ مُحِيطٌ
بِالْكَافِرِينَ﴾

“Or [it is] like a rainstorm from the sky within which is darkness, thunder and lightning. They put their fingers in their ears against the thunderclaps in dread of death. But Allah is encompassing of the disbelievers.” [Al-Baqarah: 19]

Their eyesight was too weak to bear the lightning of the downpour's lights and the radiance of its meanings, and their ears were unable to receive the thunder of its promises, commands, and prohibitions. So they stood bewildered in the valleys of delusion, neither benefiting from their hearing nor being guided by their seeing sight.

﴿يَكَادُ الْبَرْقُ يَخْطَفُ أَبْصَارَهُمْ ۖ كُلَّمَا أَضَاءَ لَهُمْ مَّشَوْا فِيهِ وَإِذَا أَظْلَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ قَامُوا ۚ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَذَهَبَ بِسَمْعِهِمْ وَأَبْصَارِهِمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ﴾

“The lightning almost snatches away their sight. Every time it lights [the way] for them, they walk therein; but when darkness comes over them, they stand [still]. And if Allah had willed, He could have taken away their hearing and their sight. Indeed, Allah is over all things competent.” [Al-Baqarah: 20]

They have signs by which they are recognized, explained in the Sunnah and the Qur'an, evident to those who contemplate them among the people of insightful faith. By Allah, hypocrisy has taken hold of them, and it is the ugliest position a human being can attain. Laziness has kept them from the commands of the Most Merciful, making sincerity difficult for them. When they stand for prayer, they stand lazily, showing off to people and remembering Allah only a little. One of them is like a stray sheep between two flocks, wandering to one group at a time and to the other at a time, never settling with either group. They are standing between the two groups. They see which of them is stronger and more honorable as a tribe, wavering between them. Neither with these nor with those And he whom Allah sends astray - for him you will

never find a way. They lie in wait for the people of the Sunnah and the Qur'an. But if they have a victory from Allah, they say, were we not with you? And they swear to that by Allah with their most earnest oaths. And if the enemies of the Book and the Sunnah have a share of victory, they say, do you not know that the bond of brotherhood between us is firm and that the kinship between us is close? So, you who want to know them, take their characteristics from the words of the Lord of the Worlds. Then you do not need proof after that:

﴿الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ بِكُمْ فَإِنْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فَتْحٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ قَالُوا أَلَمْ نَكُن مَّعَكُمْ وَإِنْ كَانَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ نَصِيبٌ قَالُوا أَلَمْ نَسْتَحِذْ عَلَىٰكُمْ وَنَمْنَعُكُم مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ۚ فَاللَّهُ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ۚ وَلَن يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ سَبِيلًا﴾

“Those who wait [and watch] you. Then if you gain a victory from Allah, they say, “Were we not with you?” But if the disbelievers have a success, they say [to them], “Did we not gain the advantage over you, but we protected you from the believers?” Allah will judge between [all of] you on the Day of Resurrection, and never will Allah give the disbelievers over the believers a way [to overcome them].” [An-Nisa: 141]

The listener is amazed by the sweetness and gentleness of what one of them says. And Allah bears witness to the lies and falsehoods in his heart. You will see him asleep when it comes to the truth and on his feet when it comes to falsehood. Take their description from the words of the Most Holy:

﴿وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يُعْجِبُكَ قَوْلُهُ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَيُشْهَدُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ مَا فِي قَلْبِهِ وَهُوَ أَلَدُ الْخِصَامِ﴾

“And of the people is he whose speech pleases you in worldly life, and he calls Allah to witness as to what is in his heart, yet he is the fiercest of opponents.” [Al-Baqarah: 204]

Their commands that they command their followers to follow include corruption of the country and its people, and their prohibitions against what is good for them in this life and the hereafter. One of them is found among the group of believers in prayer, remembrance of Allah, asceticism, and diligence:

﴿وَإِذَا تَوَلَّى سَعَىٰ فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُفْسِدَ فِيهَا وَيُهْلِكَ الْحَرْثَ وَالنَّسْلَ ۚ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفُسَادَ﴾

“And when he goes away, he strives throughout the land to cause corruption therein and destroy crops and animals. And Allah does not like corruption.” [Al-Baqarah: 205]

They are a species, some resembling others. They enjoin evil after doing it, and forbid good after abandoning it.

They are stingy with wealth in the way of Allah and for His pleasure, so that they would spend it. How often has Allah reminded them of His blessings, yet they turned away from His

remembrance and forgot Him? And how often has He revealed their condition to His believing servants so that they would avoid it? So listen, O believers:

﴿الْمُنَافِقُونَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ مِّنْ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمُنْكَرِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَقْبِضُونَ أَيْدِيَهُمْ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَنَسِيَهُمْ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ﴾

“The hypocrite men and hypocrite women are of one another. They enjoin what is wrong and forbid what is right and close their hands. They have forgotten Allah, so He has forgotten them [accordingly]. Indeed, the hypocrites - it is they who are the defiantly disobedient.” [At-Tawbah: 67]

If you refer them to the explicit revelation, you will find them averse to it. If you call them to the rulings of the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, you will see them turning away. If you were to witness their true nature, you would see a great distance between them and guidance. And I saw them turning away from the revelation with intense aversion:

﴿وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَعَالَوْا إِلَىٰ مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ وَإِلَى الرَّسُولِ رَأَيْتَ الْمُنَافِقِينَ يَصُدُّونَ عَنْكَ صُدُودًا﴾

“And when it is said to them, “Come to what Allah has revealed and to the Messenger,” you see the hypocrites turning away from you in aversion.” [An-Nisa: 61]

So how can they succeed and be guided?! After their minds and religions have been afflicted, and how can they be freed from misguidance and destruction? And they have purchased disbelief with their faith. How much more destructive is their failed trade! They exchanged the sealed nectar for a fire:

﴿فَكَيفَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمْ مُصِيبَةٌ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ ثُمَّ جَاءُوكَ يَخْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ آرْدَنَا إِلَّا إِحْسَانًا وَتَوْفِيقًا﴾

“So how [will it be] when disaster strikes them because of what their hands have put forth and then they come to you swearing by Allah, “We intended nothing but good conduct and accommodation.”” [An-Nisa’: 62]

The bitterness of doubt and suspicion has crept into their hearts, and they find no justification for it:

﴿أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُ اللَّهُ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ وَعِظْهُمْ وَقُلْ لَهُمْ فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ قَوْلًا بَلِيغًا﴾

“Those are the ones of whom Allah knows what is in their hearts, so turn away from them but admonish them and speak to them a far-reaching word.” [An-Nisa: 63]

Shame on them! How far they are from the truth of faith! And how false their claim to investigation and knowledge is! The people are one thing, and the followers of the Messenger

are another. Allah, the Almighty, has sworn in His Holy Book by Himself a great oath, the meaning of which is known to those with insight, whose hearts are wary of it out of reverence and glorification of Him. So the Almighty said, as a warning to His devoted servants, drawing attention to the state of these people, and for them to understand:

﴿فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا﴾

“But no, by your Lord, they will not [truly] believe until they make you, [O Muhammad], judge concerning that over which they dispute among themselves and then find within themselves no discomfort from what you have judged and submit in [full, willing] submission.” [An-Nisa: 65]

One of them oath precedes his speech without anyone objecting to it. Knowing that the hearts of the faithful do not feel reassured by him, he absolves himself with his oath from bad thoughts about him and from revealing what he has. Likewise, the people of doubt lie and swear so that the listener may think they are truthful:

﴿اتَّخَذُوا أَيْمَانَهُمْ جُنَّةً فَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّهُمْ سَاءَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾

“They have taken their oaths as a cover, so they averted [people] from the way of Allah. Indeed, it was evil that they were doing.” [Al-Munafiqun: 2]

Woe to them! They set out to the desert with the caravan of faith, but when they saw the length of the road and the distance of the gap, they turned back and went back. They thought that they were enjoying the good life and the sweetness of sleep in their homes. But they did not enjoy it nor did they benefit from that sleep. No sooner had a voice called out to them than they got up from their tables of food while they were hungry and had not been satisfied. So what will their condition be when they meet again? They knew then denied, and they became blind after they had witnessed the truth and seen:

﴿ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ آمَنُوا ثُمَّ كَفَرُوا فَطُبِعَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ فَهُمْ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ﴾

“That is because they believed, and then they disbelieved; so their hearts were sealed over, and they do not understand.” [Al-Munafiqun: 3]

The best of people in bodies are the most greedy of tongues, the most eloquent of speech, the most wicked of hearts, and the weakest of souls. They are like propped-up wood that bears no fruit. It has been uprooted from its place of planting and leaned against a wall to support it, lest travelers tread on it:

﴿وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَهُمْ تُعْجِبُكَ أَجْسَامُهُمْ ۚ وَإِنْ يَقُولُوا تَسْمَعُ لِقَوْلِهِمْ ۚ كَانَتْهُمْ حُشْبٌ مِّنْ سَنَدَةٍ ۚ يَخَسِبُونَ كُلَّ صَدِيقَةٍ عَلَيْهِمْ ۚ هُمُ الْعَدُوُّ فَاحْذَرْهُمْ ۚ قَاتِلْهُمْ اللَّهُ ۚ أَنَّىٰ يُؤْفَكُونَ﴾

“And when you see them, their forms please you, and if they speak, you listen to their speech. [They are] as if they were pieces of wood propped up - they think that every shout is against them. They are the enemy, so beware of them. May Allah destroy them; how are they deluded?” [Al-Munafiqun: 4]

They delay the prayer from its original time until the sun rises. So, the Morning Prayer is at sunrise, and the afternoon prayer is at sunset. They peck it like a crow, since it is the prayer of the body, not the prayer of the heart. They turn around like a fox, certain that it is being chased and sought after. They do not attend congregational prayers. Rather, if one of them prays, it is at home or in the store. When he quarrels, he commits lewdness. When he makes a covenant, he breaks it. When he speaks, he lies. When he makes a promise, he breaks it. When he is entrusted, he betrays. This is how they treat people, and this is how they treat the Creator. Take their description from the beginning of [Al-Mutaffifin]¹ and the end of “By the sky and the night-comer”². No one can tell you about their characteristics like the All-Knowing:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ جَاهِدِ الْكُفَّارَ وَالْمُنَافِقِينَ وَاغْلُظْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَمَا لَهُمْ جَهَنَّمَ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ﴾

“O Prophet, fight against the disbelievers and the hypocrites and be harsh upon them. And their refuge is Hell, and wretched is the destination.” [At-Tawbah: 73]

How numerous they are! Yet they are the few. How coercive they are! Yet they are the most humiliated. How ignorant they are! Yet they are the pretenders. How deceived they are by Allah, for they are ignorant of His greatness!

﴿وَيَخْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُمْ لَمِنْكُمْ وَمَا هُمْ مِنْكُمْ وَلَكِنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ يَفْرُقُونَ﴾

“And they swear by Allah that they are from among you while they are not from among you; but they are a people who are afraid.” [At-Tawbah: 56]

If the People of the Book and the Sunnah are granted well-being, victory, and supremacy, this will upset and grieve them. But if they are afflicted with a trial and test from Allah that purifies their sins and expiates their misdeeds, this will make them happy and pleased. This fulfills their legacy and the legacy of those other than them. The hypocrites are not equal in their legacy to the Messenger and their legacy.

﴿إِنْ تُصِيبَكَ حَسَنَةٌ تَسُؤْهُمْ وَإِنْ تُصِيبَكَ مُصِيبَةٌ يَقُولُوا قَدْ أَخَذْنَا أَمْرَنَا مِنْ قَبْلُ وَيَتَوَلَّوْا وَهُمْ فَرِحُونَ قُلْ لَنْ يُصِيبَنَا إِلَّا مَا كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَنَا هُوَ مَوْلَانَا وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ﴾

“If good befalls you, it distresses them; but if disaster strikes you, they say, "We took our matter [in hand] before," and turn away while they are rejoicing. Say, "Never will we be

¹ Surah number 83

² Surah number 86

struck except by what Allah has decreed for us; He is our protector." And upon Allah let the believers rely." [At-Tawbah: 50-51]

And Allah the Almighty said regarding the differing predecessors, and the truth is not repelled by the stubbornness of the people of deviation and confusion:

﴿إِنْ تَمَسَّسْكُمْ حَسَنَةٌ تَسُؤْهُمْ وَإِنْ تُصِيبْكُمْ سَيِّئَةٌ يَفْرَحُوا بِهَا وَإِنْ تَضُرُّوهُمْ وَتَتَّقُوا لَّا يَضُرُّكُمْ كَيْدُهُمْ شَيْئًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ مُحِيطٌ﴾

"If good touches you, it distresses them; but if harm strikes you, they rejoice at it. And if you are patient and fear Allah, their plot will not harm you at all. Indeed, Allah is encompassing of what they do." [Al-Imran: 120]

Allah hated their obedience due to the wickedness of their hearts and the corruption of their intentions. So He discouraged them from it and made them sit down. He hated their closeness to Him and His neighborhood because of their inclination toward His enemies. So He expelled them from Him and distanced them. They turned away from His revelation, so He turned away from them, making them miserable and not happy. He ruled over them with a just judgment after which they had no hope of success unless they were among the repentant. Allah Almighty said:

﴿وَلَوْ أَرَادُوا الْخُرُوجَ لَأَعَدُّوا لَهُ عُدَّةً وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ أَنْبَعَاتُهُمْ فَتَبَطَّهْمُ وَقِيلَ أَفْعَدُوا مَعَ الْقَاعِدِينَ﴾

"And if they had intended to go forth, they would have prepared for it [some] preparation. But Allah disliked their being sent, so He kept them back, and they were told, "Remain [behind] with those who remain." [At-Tawbah: 46]

Then He mentioned His wisdom in holding them back, making them sit down, and expelling them from His door and keeping them away, and that this is from His kindness to His devoted servants and bringing them happiness. He, the Most Wise of Judges, said:

﴿لَوْ خَرَجُوا فِيكُمْ مَا زَادُوكُمْ إِلَّا خَبَالًا وَلَأَوْضَعُوا خِلَالَكُمْ يَبْغُونَكُمُ الْفِتْنَةَ وَفِيكُمْ سَمَّاعُونَ لَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ﴾

"Had they gone forth with you, they would not have increased you except in confusion, and they would have been active among you, seeking [to cause] you fitnah. And among you are avid listeners to them. And Allah is Knowing of the wrongdoers." [At-Tawbah: 47]

The texts became too heavy for them, so they hated them. They were too tired to bear them, so they threw them off their shoulders and put them down. The Sunnahs slipped away from them, so they neglected them. The texts of the Qur'an and Sunnah overwhelmed them, so they established laws for them, rejecting and pushing them away. Allah has indeed exposed their veils, revealed their secrets, and presented examples of them for His servants. Know that

whenever groups of them are extinguished, their likes succeed them. He mentioned their descriptions to His devoted servants that they may be on their guard against them. And He explained it to them, saying:

﴿ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَرِهُوا مَا أُنْزِلَ اللَّهُ فَاحْبَطَ أَعْمَالَهُمْ﴾

“That is because they disliked what Allah revealed, so He rendered worthless their deeds.”

[Muhammad: 9]

This is the case of one who finds the texts difficult to bear, and sees them as a barrier between him and his innovation and his desires. In his view, they are like a solid structure. So he traded them for a sum of false speech. And he replaced them with fragments. And as a result of that, he corrupted their public and private affairs.

﴿ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَالُوا لِلَّذِينَ كَرِهُوا مَا نَزَّلَ اللَّهُ سَنُطِيعُكُمْ فِي بَعْضِ الْأَمْرِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِسْرَارَهُمْ فَكَفَيْتَ إِذَا تَوَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَضْرِبُونَ وُجُوهَهُمْ وَأَدْبَارَهُمْ ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ اتَّبَعُوا مَا أَصْحَبَ اللَّهُ وَكَرِهُوا رِضْوَانَهُ فَاحْبَطَ أَعْمَالَهُمْ﴾

“That is because they said to those who disliked what Allah sent down, "We will obey you in part of the matter." And Allah knows what they conceal. Then how [will it be] when the angels take them in death, striking their faces and their backs? That is because they followed what angered Allah and disliked [what earns] His pleasure, so He rendered worthless their deeds.” [Muhammad: 26-28]

They concealed their secrets of hypocrisy. So Allah revealed it on their faces and slips of the tongue. And He marked them because of it with signs that would not be hidden from the people of insight and faith. They thought that by concealing their disbelief and displaying their faith, they would gain the favor of observers and critics. How so? And the discerning critic has revealed it to you:

﴿أَمْ حَسِبَ الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ أَنْ لَنْ يُخْرِجَ اللَّهُ أَضْغَانَهُمْ وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَأَرَيْنَاكَهُمْ فَلَعَرَفْتَهُمْ بِسِيمَاهُمْ وَلَتَعْرِفَنَّهُمْ فِي لَحْنِ الْقَوْلِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ أَعْمَالَكُمْ﴾

“Or do those in whose hearts is disease think that Allah would never expose their [feelings of] hatred? And if We willed, We could show them to you, and you would know them by their mark; but you will surely know them by the tone of [their] speech. And Allah knows your deeds.” [Muhammad: 29-30]

So how will it be when they are gathered for the Day of Judgment, and Allah, the Majestic and Glorious, appears to His servants, having uncovered His Leg? And they will be called to prostrate, but they will be unable to do so.

﴿خَاشِعَةً أَبْصَارُهُمْ تَرْهَقُهُمْ ذِلَّةٌ وَقَدْ كَانُوا يُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى السُّجُودِ وَهُمْ سَالِمُونَ﴾

“Their eyes humbled, humiliation will cover them. And they used to be invited to prostration while they were sound.” [Al-Qalam: 43]

Or what will be their condition when they are herded onto the Bridge of Hell? It is thinner than a hair and sharper than a sword. It is a slippery slope, dark, and no one can cross it except with a light by which they can see where they step. So the lights were divided among the people, and they would pass through according to their differences. They were given a visible light with the people of Islam, just as they were among them in this world, performing prayer, zakat, pilgrimage, and fasting. But when they reached the middle of the Bridge, the winds of hypocrisy blew over their lights, extinguishing the lamps they held. They stood bewildered, unable to cross. Then a wall with a gate was placed between them and the people of faith. But the people were prevented from reaching the keys. Its interior—which is next to the believers—contains mercy, while what is before them is torment and vengeance. They call out to those who have preceded them from the delegation of faith, and the torches of the caravan appear in the distance like stars to the observer:

﴿انْظُرُونَا نَقْتَبِسْ مِنْ نُورِكُمْ﴾

"Wait for us that we may acquire some of your light." [Al-Hadid: 13]

So that we may be able to cross this strait. Our lights have been extinguished. And today there is no crossing except with a lamp of light:

﴿قِيلَ ارْجِعُوا وَرَاءَكُمْ فَالْتَمِسُوا نُورًا﴾

"It will be said, "Go back behind you and seek light." [Al-Hadid: 13]

Where the lights were divided. It is impossible for anyone to stand in such a path! How can we seek to stand in this strait? Will anyone today turn to anyone on this path? Will one companion today pay attention to another? So remind them of their meeting with them and their companionship in this home, just as a stranger reminds a homeowner of his companionship on his travels:

﴿أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مَعَكُمْ﴾

"Were we not with you?" [Al-Hadid: 14]

Fasting as you fast, praying as you pray, reading as you read, giving charity as you give, and performing Hajj as you perform Hajj. So what has separated us today that you have been singled out from us in passing through? They said:

﴿قَالُوا بَلَىٰ وَلَكِنَّكُمْ فَتَنْتُمْ أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَتَرَبَّصْتُمْ وَارْتَبْتُمْ وَغَرَّتْكُمُ الْأَمَانِيُّ حَتَّىٰ جَاءَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ وَغَرَّكُمْ بِاللَّهِ الْغُرُورُ ۚ فَالْيَوْمَ لَا يُؤْخَذُ مِنْكُمْ فِدْيَةٌ وَلَا مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ۚ مَأْوَاكُمُ النَّارُ ۚ هِيَ مَوْلَاكُمْ ۖ سَوْيَسَ الْمَصِيرُ﴾

"They will say, "Yes, but you afflicted yourselves and awaited [misfortune for us] and doubted, and wishful thinking deluded you until there came the command of Allah. And the Deceiver deceived you concerning Allah. So today no ransom will be taken from you or from those who disbelieved. Your refuge is the Fire. It is most worthy of you, and wretched is the destination." [Al-Hadid: 14 - 15]

Do not exaggerate the descriptions of these people. By Allah, what is abandoned is more than what is mentioned. The entire Qur'an is almost entirely about them, due to their great numbers on the face of the earth and in the depths of graves. No corner of the earth is devoid of them, lest believers feel lonely on the streets, their livelihoods be disrupted, and wild beasts and predators snatch them away in the wilderness. Hudhayfah (may Allah be pleased with him) heard a man say, **"O Allah, destroy the hypocrites." He said, "O my nephew, if the hypocrites were to perish, you would feel lonely on your streets due to the small number of those who will remain"** By Allah, the fear of hypocrisy pierced the hearts of the early Muslims. They knew its subtleties and its greatness, its details and its generalities. Their suspicions of themselves became so bad that they feared being among the hypocrites. Umar ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) said to Hudhayfah (may Allah be pleased with them both): **"O Hudhayfah, I implore you by Allah, did the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) name me among them?" He said: "No. I do not vouch for anyone after you."** Ibn Abi Mulaykah said: **"I met thirty of the Companions of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), all of whom feared hypocrisy for themselves. None of them would say: 'His faith is like the faith of Gabriel and Michael.'"** Narrated by al-Bukhari. It was narrated from al-Hasan al-Basri: **"No one feels safe from it except a hypocrite, and no one fears it except a believer."** It was narrated from some of the Companions that they would say in their supplication: **"O Allah, I seek refuge in You from the humility of hypocrisy."** he was asked: **"What is the humility of hypocrisy?" He said: "It is to see the body humble but the heart is not."**

By Allah, the hearts of these people are filled with faith and certainty, yet their fear of hypocrisy is intense and their concern for it is heavy. Yet, many others of them do not have faith beyond their throats, yet they claim that their faith is like the faith of Gabriel and Michael. The seed of hypocrisy grows on two roots: the root of lies and the root of ostentation. Their source is two springs: the root of weak insight and the root of weak resolve. When these four pillars are fulfilled, the plant of hypocrisy and its foundation are firmly established. However, they are like torrents on the brink of crumbling precipices. When they witness the torrent of truths on the Day when secrets will be exposed, what is concealed will be revealed, what is in the graves will be scattered, and what is in the hearts will be exposed, it will then become clear to those whose merchandise is hypocrisy that the rewards they acquired were like a mirage:

﴿يَحْسَبُهُ الظَّمَانُ مَاءً حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَهُ لَمْ يَجِدْهُ شَيْئًا وَوَجَدَ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ فَوَفَّاهُ حِسَابَهُ وَاللَّهُ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ﴾

“Which a thirsty one thinks is water until, when he comes to it, he finds it is nothing but finds Allah before Him, and He will pay him in full his due; and Allah is swift in account.” [An-Nur: 39]

Their hearts will be distracted from good deeds. Their bodies are eager for it, and immorality is rampant in their valleys. When they hear the truth, their hearts are hardened against hearing it. When they dig up falsehood and bear witness to falsehood, their hearts' eyes are opened and their ears are alert.

These, by Allah, are the signs of hypocrisy. Beware of them, O man, before fate befalls you. If they make a covenant, they do not fulfill it. If they make a promise, they break it. If they speak, they are not fair. If they are called to obedience, they stop. If they are told, Come to what Allah has revealed and to the Messenger, they turn away. If their desires call them to their goals, they hasten to them and depart. So leave them to the humiliation, disgrace, and loss they have chosen for themselves. Do not trust their covenants. Do not be reassured by their promises, for they are liars in these matters. And they are disobedient to everything else:

﴿وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ عَاهَدَ اللَّهَ لَئِنْ آتَانَا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ لَنَصَّدَّقَنَّ وَلَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ فَلَمَّا آتَاهُمْ مِّنْ فَضْلِهِ بَخِلُوا بِهِ وَتَوَلَّوْا وَهُمْ مُّعْرِضُونَ فَأَعْقَبَهُمْ نِفَاقًا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ إِلَى يَوْمِ يَلْقَوْنَهُ بِمَا أَخْلَفُوا اللَّهَ مَا وَعَدُوهُ وَبِمَا كَانُوا يَكْذِبُونَ﴾

“And among them are those who made a covenant with Allah, [saying], "If He should give us from His bounty, we will surely spend in charity, and we will surely be among the righteous." But when he gave them from His bounty, they were stingy with it and turned away while they refused. So He penalized them with hypocrisy in their hearts until the Day they will meet Him - because they failed Allah in what they promised Him and because they [habitually] used to lie.” [At-Tawbah: 75-77]

May Allah's prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his companions.